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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Fifteenth session,
Geneva, 29 June-10 July 1997,
agenda item 5(a))

MISCELLANEOUS DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Listing and classification

Special provision for mixtures of gases with oxidizing potentials greater than air

Transmitted by the Expert from the United States of America

Background

1. Two gas mixtures contained in the Dangerous Goods List are mixtures of oxygen and a non-oxidizing gas, (i.e. UN 1014, UN 1980). These mixtures are currently not identified as having a Division 5.1 subsidiary risk. However, as the oxygen concentrations for these entries are not specified, mixtures transported under these entries may or may not meet the oxidizing gas criteria as specified in 2.2.2.1(b)(ii).

2. It is proposed that a special provision be applied to each of these entries to the effect that a Division 5.1 label shall be applied if the gas mixture meets the criteria of Division 5.1.

3. In this respect, it is noted that in the case of some commercial gas mixtures containing oxygen, the oxygen concentration is frequently limited to a concentration of 23.5%. For example, the oxygen concentration of artificial air typically ranges from 19.5% to 23.5%. These values have been used in practice for many years. For practical reasons it is proposed that the special provision establish a limit of 23.5% as the concentration limit for when these gas mixtures are required to bear an oxidizing label.

Proposal

4. Create a new special provision XXX (below) and apply it to UN 1014 and UN 1980.

XXX Gas mixtures containing more than 23.5% oxygen shall bear the Division 5.1 oxidizing substance label.